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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT & TRADEMARK OFFICE

IN RE APPLICATION OF :

MECHTHILD RIEPING, ET AL.

: EXAMINER: L. ODELL

SERIAL NO: 10/616,309 :

FILED: JULY 10, 2003

: GROUP ART UNIT: 1652

FOR: PROCESS FOR THE  
FERMENTATIVE PREPARATION OF L-  
AMINO ACIDS USING STRAINS OF THE  
ENTEROBACTERIACEAE FAMILY :

PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
ALEXANDRIA, VIRGINIA 22313

SIR:

Prior to examination on the merits, the Applicants respectfully request entry of the following Preliminary Amendment.

**Amendments to the Claims** are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

**Remarks/Arguments** begin on page 12 of this paper.